



## Invitation

### **Towards a Nordic and Baltic Sea Region testbed infrastructure**

**GTS - Danish Advanced Technology Group - Gregersensvej, Tåstrup, Denmark  
28 February 2019**

There is a strong correlation between the competitiveness of technology-based SMEs and their access to specialised test and demonstration infrastructures.

In the Nordic and Baltic Sea Region there is an abundance of test and demonstration infrastructures – with partly overlapping, partly complementary areas of test excellence.

The project BSR STARS S3, co-financed by the EU Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme, has over the past two years made a number of efforts to better connect Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) and their testbeds in the Nordic and Baltic Sea Region – including by offering SME's access testbeds across borders with the support from Innovation Vouchers.

As part of other collaboration efforts Nordic RTOs (GTS Denmark, RISE Sweden, VTT Finland and SINTEF and RISE Norway) have explored further opportunities for developing a Nordic testbed infrastructure that accelerates innovation and competitiveness and thereby provide improved opportunities for Nordic companies in global markets.

At the political level the Nordic Prime Ministers have called for increased cooperation on innovation and the Nordic Ministers for industry, business and growth have specifically called for increased macro-regional cooperation “to create conditions for a Nordic testbed infrastructure” – and this with a particular focus on the Bioeconomy, the Digital economy, and the Health Economy.

The seminar 28 February 2019 aims to: 1) present and discuss lessons learned from practical cross-border cooperation between testbeds and SMEs, 2) present and discuss a number of critical barriers currently hindering cross border cooperation between RTOs and testbeds, and 3) propose a set of concrete actions that can pave the way for realising a Nordic and Baltic Sea Region testbed infrastructure.

## **Morning session**

10:00 Welcome.

10:05 Priorities of Nordic RTOs and Nordic intergovernmental cooperation supporting increased cooperation between testbeds in the Nordic and Baltic Sea Region.

- GTS Denmark.
- Nordic Council of Ministers/Nordic Innovation.

10:25 Lessons learned from practical cross-border cooperation between testbeds and SMEs.

Lessons learned from the pilot “BSR STARS S3 Bioeconomy Innovation Vouchers”.

- *Three (3) presentations by SMEs/RTOs benefitting from the Innovation Voucher.*

Lessons learned from other efforts supporting cross-border SMEs in one country to benefit from testbed infrastructures in other countries.

- *Case stories presented by the Danish Technological Institute.*

12:00 Drivers and bottlenecks for cross-border cooperation between RTOs and testbeds.

- *Facilitated discussion. Key issues include:*
  - *Responding to developments in technologies and market opportunities, in particular in areas of joint strategic interest such as the bio- and digital economy.*
  - *Benefitting from matchmaking complementarities in test excellence by understanding the unique innovation capabilities of partner RTOs and testbeds.*
  - *Funding co-operation between RTOs and testbeds: Aligning macro-regional policy priorities with financial support measures and programmes.*

13.00 Lunch

## **Afternoon session**

14.00 Key elements in a step-by-step approach to realise a Nordic and Baltic Sea Region testbed infrastructure, short and medium term.

- *Facilitated discussion.*

14.45 Conclusions.

15.00 End of meeting.